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discussions as suggested themselves, in connection with it, to the author's own mind. Of course we are unprepared to give a more minute description of the work. On the appearance of the second volume, we shall hope to render to it and its saintly author the grateful recognition due to its lofty intellectual and devotional character, and to his eminent services to the republic of letters and religion. At present we will only say that the sheets which have passed under our inspection confirm the high anticipations based on our long and intimate acquaintance with the mind and heart of the author.

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24. — *A First Lesson in Natural History.* By ACTÆA. Boston : Little, Brown, & Co. 1859. 16mo. pp. 82.

"A LESSON for the times," the author might well have added to the title-page ; for it is specially adapted to the mood of the present day, in which the *aquarium* is the fresh wonder and delight of young and old ; and to the reigning fashion, which makes a summer residence by the sea-side a part of the year's life for so many hundreds of families. The subjects of the Lesson are Sea-Anemones and Corals, Coral Reefs, Hydroids and Jelly-Fishes, Star-Fishes and Sea-Urchins. With the simplicity of one born to teach, with the severe and minute accuracy of an accomplished naturalist, and with the enthusiasm of fervent admiration, the author describes the structure, life, and functions of these long-neglected radiates. Numerous wood-cuts accompany and illustrate the Lesson. The book, we suppose, was designed for children ; but no one who is not already an adept in the department to which it relates will read it without profit, while its charming style greatly enhances the interest that belongs of right to the marvels and miracles of creative skill which it so vividly portrays.

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25. — *Popular Tales from the Norse.* By GEORGE WEBBE DASENT, D. C. L. *With an Introductory Essay on the Origin and Diffusion of Popular Tales.* New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1859. 12mo. pp. lxix., 380.

THESE tales are monstrous, puerile, and often pointless, — nightmare creations of a fancy bewildered in boundless forests and rocked by fierce waves and storms. They have a certain historical importance, as pointing to the origin of some popular superstitions and illustrating the universality of others. The Introductory Essay is able, ingenious, and scholarly, and suffices of itself to give an independent and high value to the volume, even though the tales may seem of little interest or worth.